**Elizabeth Stevenson - Millbrook HS Visual Arts - Part 1 Literacy Information, Task 2**-*Review one of the websites below and reflect on how your thinking has changed about incorporating writing in your arts classroom.*

I reviewed the following website:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/languagearts/secondary/writing/014writinghaven>

I honestly admit that when I first began this endeavor I was skeptical. I wondered what a high school teacher could possibly do to help kids who can’t read or write very well when the data show that kids who have not achieved reading proficiency by first grade will never catch up. But the more I read on this website, the more inspired I became. I thought about my grading rubrics and how encouraging students to write about their own artwork would be a good place to begin. I revised my rubrics to include a more developed written component (Critical Response Essential Standard) and even gave students the opportunity to revise (i.e. do more writing!) for this component of their rubric for a better grade, if they earned a low grade the first time.

My thinking changed in other areas, too, particularly with regards to journals. The structure of the “learning logs” sounded interesting to me. “Telegrams” also seemed like something my students could do with success. I was happy to see that a number of the techniques I use were discussed in the passage including: brainstorming, exit out the door, and metaphors. I was intrigued by the idea of the “bumper sticker” and “cubing.”

Encouraging students to write has always been an issue, even with honors students. I have been so focused on the “art” of my curriculum, and sometimes felt that writing would take away from that. But after reviewing this passage I feel that as a 21st century educator my job as a visual arts teacher is about much more that teaching an art technique. In a way, this passage has given me “permission” to spend more time coaching my students in literacy. I found the section on ESL students particularly helpful and now feel more comfortable with new strategies to assist them with. I also have come to not underestimate the importance of student relevance when it comes to writing. Overall, the more I looked at my curriculum, the more opportunities I discovered where I could incorporate literacy.